



377 Research Parkway 2D
Meriden, CT 06450
203-238-1207
FAX (203) 238-3437
www.ctnurses.org

TESTIMONY RE: **H.B. 5131 (Raised) AN Act Establishing a Task Force on
Nail Salons and Nail Technicians**

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 16, 2016

Good Morning; Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) related to **H.B. (Raised) 5131 AN Act Establishing a Task Force on Nail Salons and Nail Technicians.**

I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association and professor emeritus from Central Connecticut State University. I speak in strong support of **H.B. (Raised) 5131 AN Act Establishing a Task Force on Nail Salons and Nail Technicians.**

I would like to suggest that the Task Force not only study the standards for nail salons to protect customers and the licensure standards for nail technicians, but also look at the environmental impact of the products on the public health of the customers and the providers. Nail Salons without proper ventilation may prove hazardous to the health of all involved providers as well as customers. I

Nail salons are mostly small businesses that employ or contract with trained professionals to provide clients with nail services including, but not limited to, nail filing and polishing, artificial nail application, and other hand- and foot-care treatments.

More than 375,000 nail technicians working in salons across the United States face possible health hazards every day. Workers exposed to chemicals found in glues, polishes, removers, emollients and other salon products may experience negative health effects such as asthma and other respiratory illnesses, skin disorders (e.g. allergic contact dermatitis), liver disease, reproductive loss, and cancer. Additionally, workers often endure muscle strains from awkward positions or repetitive motions; and have a high risk for infection from contact with client skin, nails, or blood.

(www.OSHA.gov)

The health impact of the materials utilized in Nail Salons is well researched and annotated. The real issues that need to be focused on are the health impact of the environment on all her are utilizing these services and/or providing these services.

I urge you to support **H.B. (Raised) 5131 AN Act Establishing a Task Force on Nail Salons and Nail Technicians inclusive of addressing the**

environment and I would like to suggest that a member be added to the Task Force that has knowledge related to environmental health.

Thank you

Mary Jane M. Williams PhD., RN

Chair, Government Relation, Connecticut Nurses Association

Professor Emeritus Central Connecticut State University